

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting  
April 25, 2016**

**PRESENT:** David C. DiCicco, Chairman  
Matthew M. Toolan, Vice Chairman  
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member  
Michelle S. Geddes, Member  
Christopher J. Gerstel, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director  
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

**GUESTS:** *Community Center of Needham:* Deb Whitney  
*Town of Needham:* Christopher Coleman

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM in the Cafeteria at the Center at the Heights.

1. **Minutes of Meetings: April 11, 2016 and review of March 28, 2016:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel. The minutes of April 11, 2016 were approved unanimously. The Commission reviewed a note from attendee Alan Rubin: "In reviewing the March 28th Meeting minutes, I noted a representation of my intent which I don't believe is consistent with what I said.  
Under Discussion Items, Food Carts, line 17 states my intent was to set up at fields not served by concession stands. I interpret that to eliminate DeFazio and Memorial Fields. I expressed interest in setting up at DeFazio and Memorial, as well as other fields, while not wishing to compete with or detract from fund raising efforts when concession stands were in operation. I did not rule out the option/possibility of serving at the same time concession stands were in operation which would be contingent on establishing a mutual agreement to do so with the organization running the concessions. Please note my comments and adjust the minutes to accurately reflect what I said and didn't say."  
Mr. Toolan made a motion to amend the minutes of the March 28, 2016 meeting to state that Mr. Rubin did not want to compete with concession stands in operation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel. The amendment to the minutes of March 28, 2016 was approved unanimously.
2. **Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Carey reminded the Commission of the Rosemary Trail Hike taking place Saturday, April 30, at which time a walkthrough of the Rosemary Pool Complex will be held. Ms. Carey reported that concrete bricks have been found at Newman on the fields and in the playground area twice in recent days. She has contacted the groups that use Newman as well as the school to see if anyone has information.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report.

#### **4. Discussion Items**

- A. Rosemary Recreation Complex Project – Preparation for Town Meeting:** Ms. Carey reported sent out flyers for the Rosemary Hike and tour of the Rosemary Pool Complex to many user groups and Town Meeting members. Ms. Carey and Project Manager Mike Retzky will mark out the plans at the site. Ms. Carey reviewed the fact sheet of questions for the Rosemary Recreation Complex Project. Mr. DiCicco has heard questions about the cost of building at Rosemary vs. a flat site. Public Facilities-Construction Director Steve Popper and Mr. Retzky are reluctant to answer that question as there is not a flat site to use as a comparison. If the pool were built at Ridge Hill, it would require additional acreage turned over by Conservation Commission and the Legislature, and infrastructure brought to the site, with sewer being a costly addition. Mr. Toolan would like the indoor/outdoor pool question added to the fact sheet. He would also like to see the Board of Selectmen address that they voted in support of the project, the town needs the added office space, and where the funding for the project comes from. Assistant Town Manager Christopher Coleman addressed several points as to why the Rosemary Recreation Complex is needed. The reasons he gave were the Town gets a new pool; the Town would have year round space to use for both offices and programs; the plans include an improved site access that would provide better parking; the building would have a built in generator allowing the site to be used during emergency situations or a respite site; additional parking would be added allowing for more parking at big events in Town such at 4<sup>th</sup> of July, larger football games, etc.; and the building would be in the center of town allowing for a campus feel.
- B. Town Meeting Articles:** Mr. DiCicco reminded the Commission that land swap would be up for vote at Town Meeting. Someone from the Commission would need to address that Park and Recreation supports the land swap. Mrs. Chaston said if food trucks do come up and the Commission is asked their stance, they are open to see how the Commission can create opportunities.

#### **5. Action Items**

- A. Special Event Request: Msgr. Haddad Middle School:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve Msgr. Haddad Middle School's request for Greene's Field on May 26, 2016 for their Field Day – Battle of Gettysburg Reenactment with a rehearsal on May 24, 2016. The rain date that was requested is not permitted as the YMCA has the field permitted. Mr. Gerstel seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- B. May Meeting Schedule:** If needed, the May 9, 2016 Commission meeting will be held at 7:00PM at Town Hall in Powers Hall.

6. **Topics for Future Agendas:** Mrs. Chaston requested the Commission discuss food trucks and the skate park after Town Meeting.
7. **Adjournment of Meeting:** Mr. Toolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Fink, CPRP  
Assistant Director